

The Salina

A report from your city government

Fall 2005

Citizen

NORTH OHIO STREET OVERPASS PROJECT

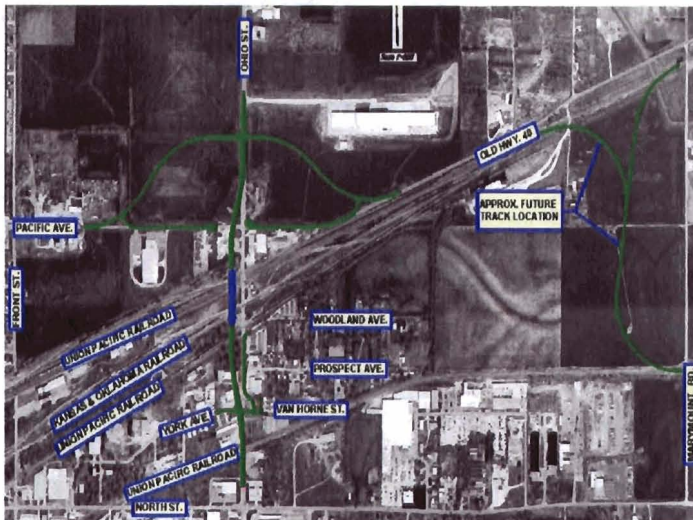
Construction has finally begun on the North Ohio Street Overpass Project. This project will eliminate all existing railroad crossings on North Ohio Street between North Street and Pacific Avenue. It includes a 600-foot four-lane bridge over six of the ten existing tracks and removal of four tracks. The bridge will be built slightly to the west of the existing Ohio Street to maintain traffic during construction, to lessen the impact of the surrounding neighborhood and to minimize relocations of major utilities. Portions of the existing Ohio Street will be converted to a frontage road for access to neighborhoods in the Woodland Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Van Horne Avenue areas.

A new rail connection east of the City will allow removal of the two southernmost crossings at Ohio Street and eight more crossings on streets west of Ohio Street. Approximately 4,000 feet of Pacific Avenue and Old U.S. Highway 40 will be relocated north of its current location on Ohio Street. The intersection will have signals and appropriate turning lanes. Portions of the existing Pacific Avenue roadway will be retained for access to existing and future development.

Perhaps one of the least understood benefits of this project is the positive impact it will have on downtown Salina. Currently, trains regularly block railroad crossings at Elm Street, Ash Street, Iron Street and

even Crawford Street. The closing of the Ohio Street railroad crossings, combined with the construction of the new rail spur east of Salina will result in significantly less train traffic and disruption downtown.

The North Ohio Street Overpass project also includes significant aesthetic improvements including landscaping, two 10-acre ponds, decorative bridge rails, special fencing



Bird's Eye View of North Ohio

material, unique lighting systems and textured concrete sidewalks.

Funding for this project is provided by a \$12.3 million grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation, \$1.7 million from the Union Pacific Railroad Company and \$6.2 million from the City of Salina.

The project will be completed in the spring of 2007. During the project, Ohio Street WILL NOT be closed to traffic.

Additional information about this project can be obtained from the Department of Public Works at 309-5725.

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Dear Salina Citizen,

The City of Salina is pleased to present to you the fall 2005 edition of *The Salina Citizen*. We hope this issue informs you about City projects, and stimulates your interest and participation in local government.

The City Commission and members of City staff encourage you to ask questions and make your views known. This is an exciting and challenging time for our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Salina City Commission

2006 City Budget - High Level of Service Continues

In August, the City Commission finalized the 2006 City budget. The annual budget is the plan for how money will be spent by the City. The adoption of the budget is the result of several months of staff work. This work resulted in the City Manager presenting the proposed budget to the City Commission in July. The City Commission then held several public study sessions, during which they reviewed the proposed budget and accepted public comments and requests. The formal public hearing on the budget was held on August 15th, after which it was formally adopted.

The adopted 2006 budgeted expenditures total \$59,222,065, compared to \$57,554,412 in 2005. This is a conservative 2.8% increase. The total property tax levy remains stable at 24.092 mills. Modest user fee increases will be implemented for emergency medical service charges and water and sewer charges. No increases are planned for sanitation or solid waste services. We anticipate the adopted budget will enable a continuation of the high level of service that the citizens of Salina deserve.

Some specific items of interest in

the 2006 budget include:

- ✓ Additional resources committed for annual street maintenance and repair
- ✓ Improvements to the North Broadway Street corridor will be initiated
- ✓ Completion of the Salina Soccer Complex on east Magnolia Road
- ✓ Downtown tree replacements

are scheduled

- ✓ Update of the City's comprehensive development plan
- ✓ No property tax levy change for 2006
- ✓ Initiation of an entryway/directional signage program.

The following compares selected key elements of the 2005 and 2006 budgets.

Description	2005	2006
Property Tax Levy Rate (mills)	24.063	24.063
Taxes Levied (\$)	\$ 8,067,300	\$ 8,467,343
Taxable Property Value	335,262,182	351,882,271
Other Revenues:		
Sales Tax	13,035,000	\$ 13,275,020
User Fees and Charges	24,998,539	25,917,327
All Other Sources	7,314,744	8,992,623
Total Revenue, All Sources	53,415,583	56,652,313
Expenditures:		
Personnel Costs	\$ 28,302,199	\$ 29,714,269
Services and Charges	8,276,543	8,888,385
Supplies	5,251,181	5,149,948
Debt Service	6,903,383	6,879,376
Capital Outlay	7,496,420	6,527,021
All Other Expenses	1,324,686	2,081,814
Total Expenditures	57,554,412	59,222,065
Budgeted Reserves	15,012,636	14,029,365
Authorized Full Time Staffing	498	504

Bond Rating Upgraded - An Indication of Safe and Secure Finances

In July, Moody's Investors Service notified the City that the credit rating assigned to City of Salina General Obligation Bonds was upgraded from the A1 rating to an Aa3 rating. The City of Salina issues bonds as a way of borrowing money to pay for major capital improvements. The bonds are then repaid over a number of years, much like a private individual repays a loan they have taken out to purchase their home.

The City has carried the A1 rating, considered to be "upper medium grade" for more than 20 years. Bonds rated Aa3 are considered "high grade" investments. The up-

grade provides access to a broader market, and potentially reduces interest rates on future bonds. Lower interest rates and more competition means a lower cost to the taxpayer.

... "the City's sizable tax base, which acts as a regional economic hub, strong city management, and an average amount of rapidly retired debt" as positive factors in their evaluation.

Moody's is an independent credit rating agency serving the investor marketplace. They consider a number of factors when evaluating a commu-

nity. These include: the local economy, population and incomes, current debt, overall strength of city management, and financial health. In Salina's case, Moody's specifically cites "the City's sizable tax base, which acts as a regional economic hub, strong city management, and an average amount of rapidly retired debt" as positive factors in their evaluation. Within Kansas, 54 cities, counties, and school districts are rated by Moody's. Of these, only 11 are rated better than Aa3.

This upgrade results in another positive face our community can present to the world.

Financial Report Available to the Public

The annual independent audit of the 2004 financial statements was recently completed. The audit opinion has been published as a part of the 2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The auditor's opinion was once again an unqualified, or "clean" opinion. That is the highest level of opinion that can be given, and means that the "financial statements present fairly, in all material respects," the financial position of City activities as of December 31, 2004. No statutory violations were noted.



The CAFR consists of a number of related documents and schedules in addition to the Auditor's opinion. These are intended to help the reader understand its community's finances.

The complete CAFR may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 300 West Ash, Room 206. It is also available on the City's website at <http://www.salina-ks.gov/>.

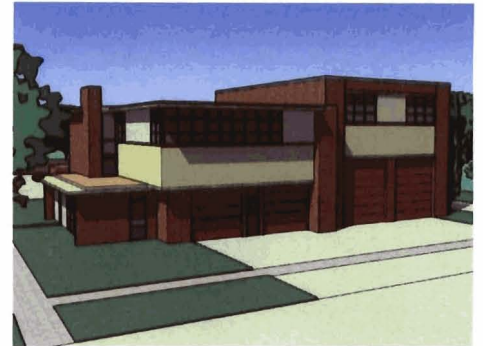
Fire Station Improvement Nearly Underway

In regards to fire safety, the 1950's was an exciting time for the citizens and firefighters of Salina, Kansas. The decade was ushered in with the construction of a new state-of-the-art headquarters fire station at 222 West Elm – one that was nationally recognized. Then, on the shirt tails of that project, a second fire station was erected at 1120 South Santa Fe in 1957. Over the next 50 years, Salina added two additional fire stations; one at 669 Briarcliff in 1969, and another at 2633 Belmont Avenue in 1985.

In 2001, the sprawling growth of Salina prompted leaders to contract the services of a firm named "Almont Associates" to conduct a fire station location study to evaluate the existing fire station locations and to identify future needs. The positive results of that report indicated that Salina's four fire stations are positioned in opportune locations. The report also recommended improvements and expansion to Fire Station No. 2. This was to increase the overall performance

of the station, due to its central location.

Following the report from Almont, an internal study was conducted, and an architect was hired to develop a concept plan for the station improvements. Shortly after the plan was completed, the project was added to



Architect's Drawing Of The Proposed Fire Station

the City's comprehensive capital improvement plan. Today, we're close to seeing work commence on the first major step of fire station improvements, a complete facelift and moderate addition to Fire Station 2.

Lakewood Bridge Projects - A Local Historic Relocation Completed

In 2000, the City received a grant for the construction of a replacement bridge over the Old Smoky Hill River at the south entrance to Lakewood Park. The original bridge was found to be structurally deficient for motor vehicles, but retained significant cultural and historical significance worth preserving. The "1887 Vintage Steel Pratt Truss Bridge" with wood plank-ing was originally constructed over the Smoky Hill River Channel on North Ohio Street. In 1964, the bridge was moved to the south entrance to Lakewood Park. The bridge is now on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, due to its cultural and historic significance.

The relocation of the historic struc-

ture and reuse as a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the recently built Lakewood Middle School was very well received from both the Historical Society and the Kansas Department of Transportation. The State Historical Society liked the fact that the bridge was literally moving back to within a few hundred feet of where it was originally constructed back in 1887. In fact, the relocation project was so well received that the City of Salina secured another grant through the Transportation Enhancement Program for the rehabilitation and relocation of the historic bridge.

Through these two grants, the City of Salina leveraged approximately

\$800,000 of state and federal grant funds. The total cost of both projects was approximately \$1,120,000. Both bridge projects are now substantially complete and the citizens of Salina will benefit from these projects for years to come.



Lakewood Truss Bridge Prior To Relocation

Salina Soccer Complex - *Something Our Youth Will Get a Kick Out Of*

Beginning in the summer of 2003, the City of Salina and the Salina Soccer Club collaborated on the development of a public/private soccer complex. The site selection process lasted for nearly two years and included many different locations throughout the city. The final site was selected on the south side of East Magnolia Road between the flood control levee and the Smoky Hill River. The Salina Soccer Complex is scheduled to open in September of 2006.



Soccer Site Aerial View

A local engineering firm assisted the project team on a fast-track design/build process for Phase I, which was completed in September 2005.

Phase I includes earth grading, drainage water, electric power, sprinkling and seeding of five full-sized soccer fields. Each soccer field is 360' x 225' in size, which is larger than a football field. Space is available for three more fields as funds become available in the future. Phase II of the project will begin construction in April of 2006. That phase will include an eastbound right turn lane on Magnolia Road, a paved parking lot, lighting, sidewalks and fencing. If funds are available, Phase II may include a concession stand, restrooms, sewer system, maintenance building and playground/convenience area.

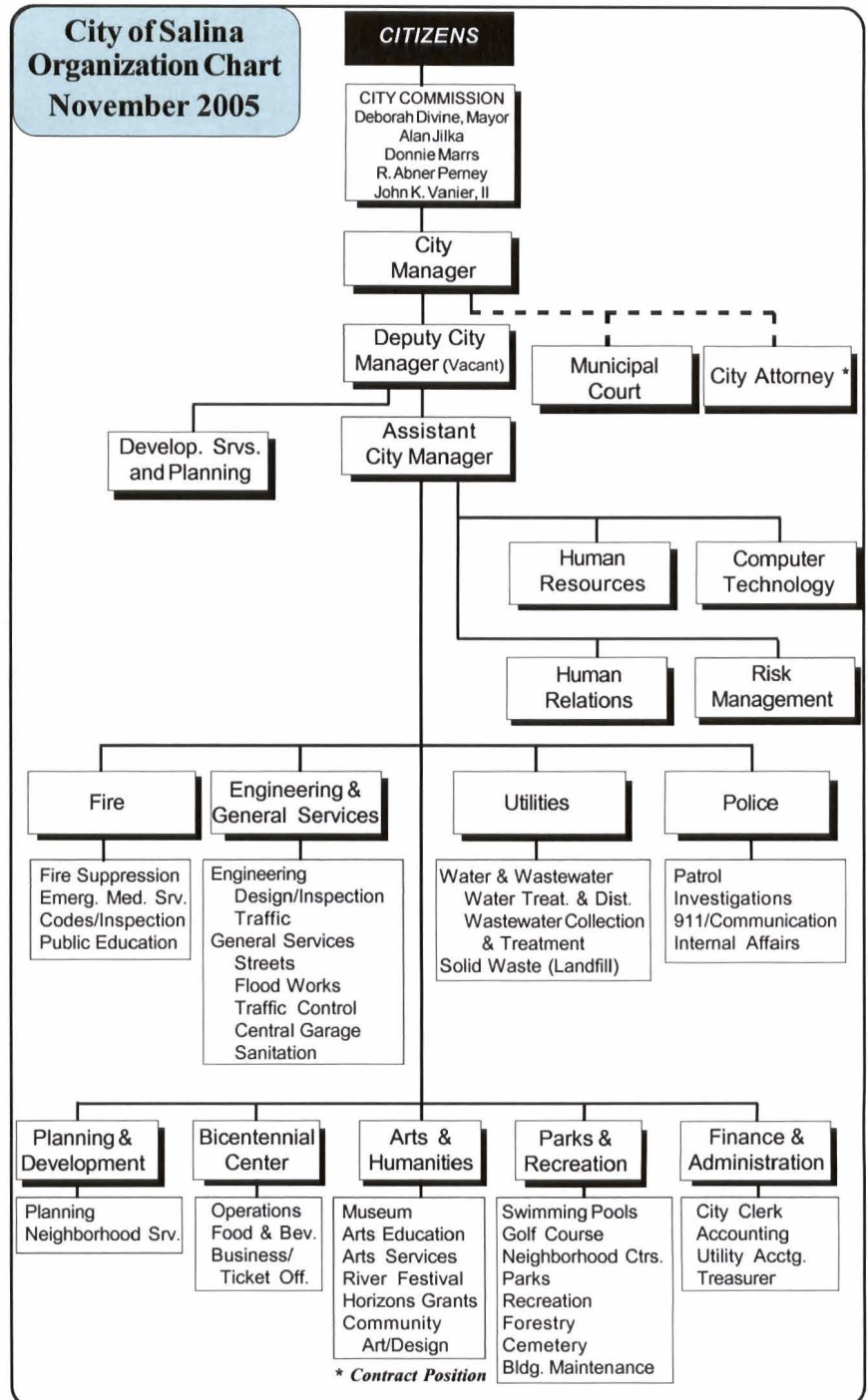
Half of the funding for the project (\$750,000) is provided by private donations generated by the Salina Soccer Club, while the other half will be paid with sales tax funds provided by the City of Salina. The complex will be owned by the City of Salina

and operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. Special scheduling will be provided to the Salina Soccer Club for leagues and tournaments. Other city soccer programs will be scheduled at the complex accordingly. The complex may be expanded in the future to eight full-sized fields if demand increases and as funds become available. When the Salina Soccer Complex is

opened, the City of Salina will have a total of 12 full-sized soccer fields available for public use, including six at Bill Burke Park, one at Oxbow Park and five at the Salina Soccer Complex.

If you have questions regarding this new park facility, please contact the Salina Department of Parks and Recreation at 309-5765.

City of Salina Organization Chart November 2005



Salina Area Youth Sportsmanship Initiative (SAYSI)

In an attempt to bring back good sportsmanship to youth sports and provide the two greatest benefits—good character and respect, the Salina Area Youth Sportsmanship Initiative (SAYSI) was formed in November of 2001.

Our mission statement is as follows: The SAYSI has been organized to promote comprehensive sportsmanship programs for all youth sports in the community. In conjunction with local youth sports providers, continuing education will be provided for parents, coaches, officials and all youth participants. The overall objective of SAYSI is to show how important sportsmanship is at the youth sports level and to make it contagious enough to have a positive impact on all community activities.

During the year, we offer a number of activities for our youth. A few of the activities recently offered involved the spring/summer Sportsmanship Awards with Coach Francis Flax as

our speaker. There were approximately 350 in attendance. Our annual Fall Fest/City Soccer Fields Grand Opening was held the last weekend in August with free hotdogs and ice cream, tub games, door



Take Me Out To The Ballpark

prizes, skill games for football and soccer, inflatable obstacle course, and sports arena for soccer. This event brought out 500 in attendance. The 4th annual Take Me Out to the Ballpark was held in May at the

ECRA Complex, with over 1,000 youth and adults at the event. This is a kickoff event for the spring and summer youth baseball and softball season. A big part of this event was a Kansas City Royals baseball clinic. New this year was a High School Coach's softball clinic for girls.

Another important aspect of our organization is the education of parents, officials and coaches that attend clinics for certification. These are offered for the different sports activities that occur throughout the year.

The SAYSI staff is available to speak to any community or civic group that might be interested in hearing more about the program.

As part of our mission, we work for the community and encourage anyone with questions or suggestions to contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 309-5765.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SALINA BICENTENNIAL CENTER

SEE 'N SELL	NOVEMBER 19
SHHS BLUE & GOLD CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT	DECEMBER 5 - 10
CHRISTMAS WITH WAYNE NEWTON	DECEMBER 11
CENTRAL VS. SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL	DECEMBER 13
SALINA INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT	JANUARY 18 - 21
AMBUC'S LEISURE LIVING & SPORTS SHOW	FEBRUARY 3 - 5
SOUTH VS. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL	FEBRUARY 10
HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION HOME & GARDEN SHOW	FEBRUARY 17 - 19

SALINA BICENTENNIAL CENTER

P.O. BOX 1727, SALINA, KANSAS 67402-1727

For tickets to selected entertainment events, order online at www.bicentennial.org or call toll free

1-888-826-SHOW

(1-888-826-7469)

All events listed are subject to change. Consult our website for the latest information. The Salina Bicentennial Center is completely ADA accessible. We provide handicapped parking for cars & vans, wheelchair & companion accommodations and hearing assistance.

Visit our website at www.bicentennial.org

The City's 2005/2006 Capital Improvement Program

Improving Our Infrastructure For The New Millenium

At a total cost of \$43.5 million, the City's 2005/2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the largest and perhaps most diverse such program in the City's history. The CIP enables the City to manage the infrastructure. Infrastructure is the physical structures which tie our community together. Our streets, bridges, flood control systems, water and sewer systems, parks and public buildings represent a considerable investment in our community.

The CIP allows projects to be scheduled in accordance with available funding sources to meet priority community needs and demands for improved public services. This process is strongly driven by what we hear from the community, and what we see as obvious needs. It is very important that citizens take an active role in contacting City officials to express capital needs.

The City's basic strategy for capital improvement planning can be summarized as follows: (1) maintain the capacity and function of essential facilities serving the overall city, (2) upgrade public facilities in areas where deficiencies may exist and, (3) provide new and expanded facilities in locations experiencing growth and development. Below are some examples of the 2005/2006 CIP.

Stormwater Projects

2005 - Schilling / Water Well Ditch
(\$350,000)

2006 - Downtown drainage / others TBD
(\$240,000)

N. Broadway Corridor

2006 - Improve traffic safety at three intersections
Convert from 4 lanes to 3 lanes
Rehabilitate pavement and drainage systems
(\$2.6 Million)

Downtown Traffic Signals (2005/2006)

Upgrade 5 antiquated traffic signals in
downtown Salina including signal coordination
(\$800,000)

Downtown Amenities (2005)

Improvements to plazas and fixtures
(\$60,000)

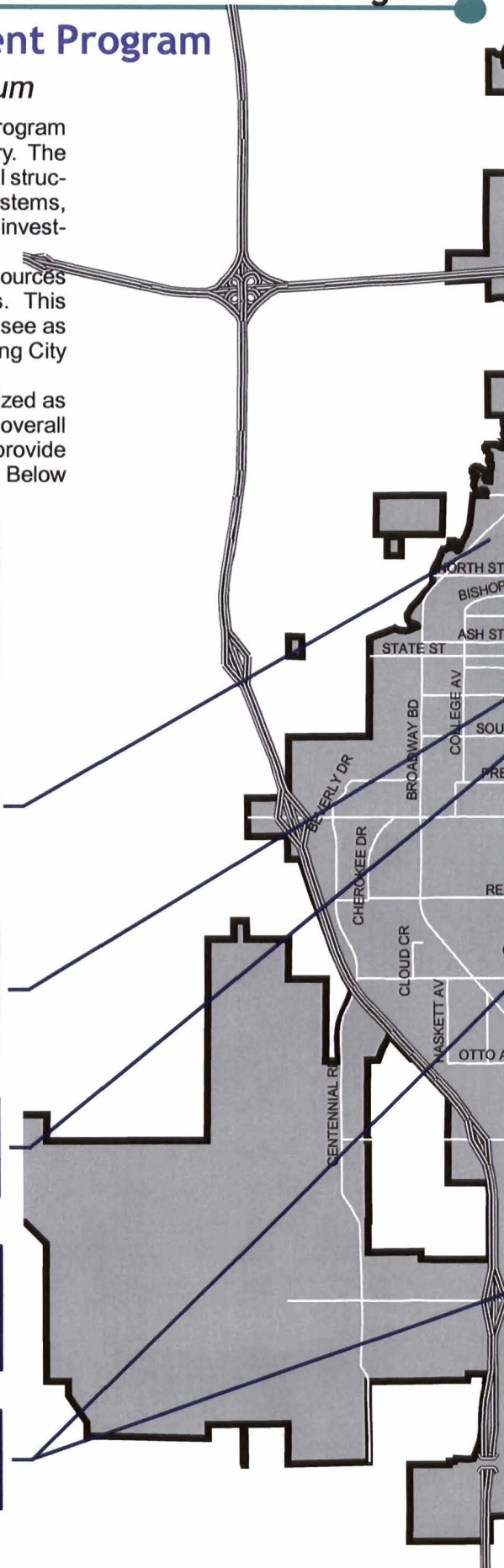
Utility enhancements

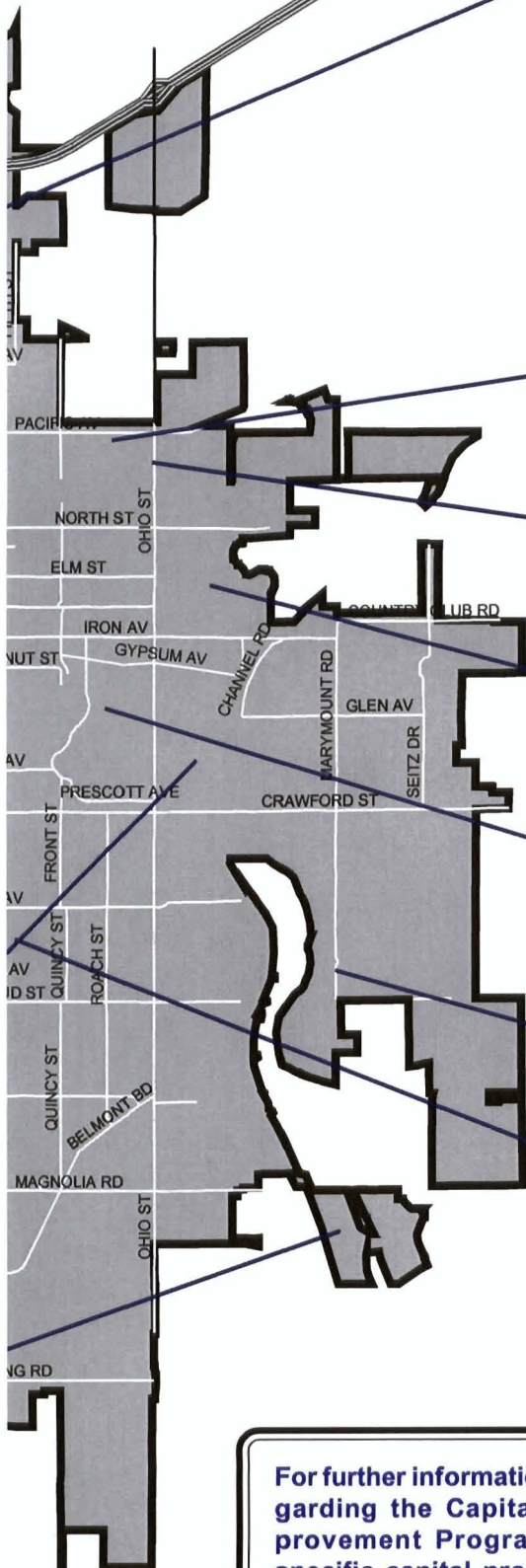
Various locations for Water / Sewer systems
(2005 - \$935,000)
(2006 - \$1,180,000)

Soccer Complex (2005/2006)

4 new regulation fields in Bill Burke Park (\$300,000)

Salina Soccer Complex on East Magnolia Rd, 5 new fields (\$1.5 Million)





N. 9th St Bridge Enhancements (2005)
Replace southbound bridge over Mulberry Creek (\$1.3 Million)

Street Maintenance

-Mill / Overlay
2005 - 9th St / Iron Av / Santa Fe Av / Cloud St
2006 - TBD
-Other projects to be determined
(2005 - \$1,400,000)
(2006 - \$1,400,000)

East Pacific Avenue (2006)

Upgrade street / drainage system from rural to urban
(\$300,000)

North Ohio Overpass (2005 - 2007)

New 600' bridge over railroad tracks on North Ohio St ; Realignment of Pacific / US Hwy 40; New rail spur
(\$20.2 Million)

Lakewood Replacement Bridge

Lakewood Pedestrian Bridge (2005)

Bicentennial Center Improvements (2005)

-Replace Sound System
-Replace Scoreboard
-Improve Heritage Hall
(\$760,000)

South Marymount Rd (2005)

2005 - Phase II (\$293,000)

Fire Station #2 Project (2005/2006)

Expand station capacity and capability (\$1.2 Million)

Sidewalk Ramps / Arterial Sidewalks

-Arterial Sidewalks (2005)
- Lakewood Pedestrian Bridge - Ohio to Riverside
- Elm - Des Moines to Ohio
- Magnolia - Sierra to Ohio
(2005 - \$150,000)
(2006 - \$150,000)

Wayfinding Signage (2006)

KDOT grant project on N. 9th St and W. Crawford St.
New directional signage master plan city-wide (\$450,000)

For further information regarding the Capital Improvement Program or specific capital projects, contact the Department of Public Works at 309-5725.

Building Services - Safety Issues

You assume that when you buy a home, rent an apartment, or walk into an office building that the structure is safe and sound. You don't think about the danger of electrocution when you turn on a light switch or plug in an appliance. You assume the plumbing works properly and is not a health hazard. You expect heating, air conditioning and other mechanical systems to operate safely and efficiently. Safe buildings don't just happen by chance, but are the result of a partnership between design professionals, professional contractors and professional building safety inspectors working together to build safe environments in which to live, work, learn and play.

Our community has adopted various construction codes in order to protect the health and well-being of our citizens. We also have a number of trained professionals to help assure that those codes are implemented to ensure safe buildings. Sometimes, the do-it-yourselfer can become intimidated by the permits and inspection process. This is often the result of either not understanding the reasons for the codes, or the long-term benefits they produce. This is very understandable and why we are here to help.

The mission of our staff is to "assist our citizens through the course of their projects by providing information and solution-based cus-

tomers service in a courteous, professional manner." The goal of our staff is to partner with our citizens to achieve projects in which success is not only measured by the completion of a building or installation that has met all of their objectives, but by conformance to local building, fire and zoning codes that ensure safety and peace of mind.

To that end, we have developed many informational brochures that are available in our Building Services offices or on the City's webpage. These include: "When Do I Need a Building Permit," "Tips on Hiring a Contractor," "Home Buying Tips" and "Swimming Pools." They can help the average citizen begin to become familiar with local building requirements.

We're At Your Service

In order to serve you better, City staff maintains a computerized Citizen Service Request (CSR) system. This system assists staff in expediting and effectively responding to citizen concerns.

If you have questions or service requests, please contact the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700. You may also send questions or requests via our e-mail link on the City of Salina's official municipal website: www.salina-ks.gov

Visit our website:
www.salina-ks.gov

Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Salina does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

The Assistant City Manager has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 35-107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA coordinator.

For information, contact:

ADA Coordinator

Deb Demel

Assistant City Manager

City of Salina

300 W. Ash

Salina, Kansas 67401

Phone: (785) 309-5700

(TDD) (785) 309-5747

Articles were written by city staff, with design and editing by LaDonna Bennett. Questions/Comments? Call the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700.

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CITY COMMISSIONERS WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Members of the Salina City Commission are always interested in your comments and suggestions on city services and policies.

Each Commissioner welcomes letters and telephone calls. Write them at P.O. Box 736, Salina, KS 67402-0736.

Commissioner's phone numbers are:

Deborah Divine	823-3447
Alan Jilka	827-0002
Donnie Marrs	823-6002
R. Abner Perney	452-9711
John K. Vanler II	823-3794